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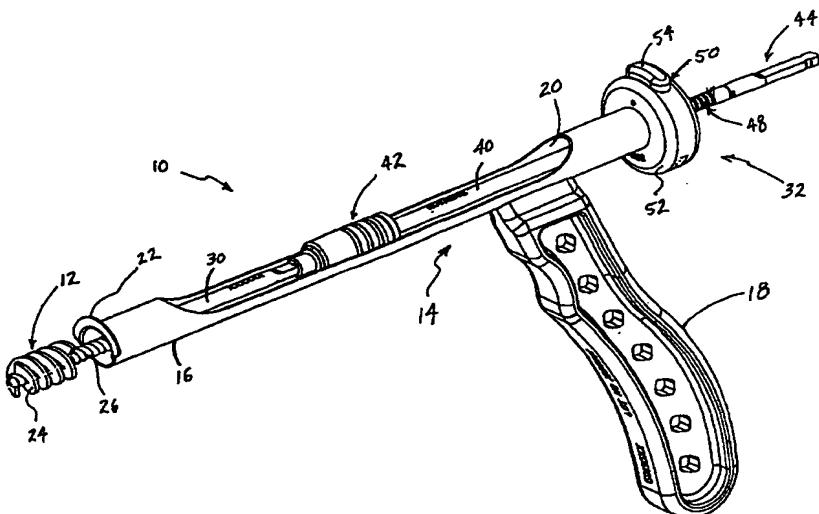
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- (71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): NUVA-SIVE, INC. [US/US]; 10065 Old Grove Road, San Diego, CA 92131 (US).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): SUTTERLIN, Chester, M., D. [US/US]; Spinal Health Centers, 7120 NW 11th Place, Gainsville, FL 32605 (US). BLAIN, Jason [US/US]; 11662 Corte Gueka, San Diego, CA 92128 (US). CURRAN, Matthew [US/US]; 3218 Rancho Quarto, 10983 Caminito Arcada, San Diego, CA 92131 (US). WOOLLEY, Troy [US/US]; 10983 Caminito Arcada, San Diego, CA 92131 (US). KOVACH, Eric [US/US]; 3107 Quebrada Circle, Carlsbad, CA 92009 (US).
- (74) Agent: SPANGLER, Jonathan, D.; 10065 Old Grove Road, San Diego, CA 92131 (US).
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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR REMOVING BODY TISSUE



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(57) Abstract: Devices and methods for removing body tissue involving the use of a brush member (12) having a plurality of bristle members defining a capacity for carrying body tissue. The brush member (12) is capable of being manipulated within said body to thereby receive body tissue within said brush member (12) such that said body tissue may be carried and thereafter removed from said body. Also provided are protective devices (90) dimensioned to be positioned near an entrance into the target site, the protective devices (90) for establishing a barrier between the brush member (12) and at least a portion of the body tissue adjacent to the entrance. The protective devices (16) may comprise one of a cannula assembly (14) and a retractor assembly.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US02/28926

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61B 17/00
US CL : 606/79

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : Please See Continuation Sheet

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
Please See Continuation Sheet

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6,099,309 A (CARDARELLI) 08 August 2000 (08.08.2000), see entire document.	1,2,6-10,14,15,17-20,36-39
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Y		16
X,P	US 6,423,078 B1 (BAYS et al.) 23 July 2002 (23.07.2002), see entire document.	1,2,6,7,9,13,17-25,28-31,36-39
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Y,P		8,10,14-16
X,P	US 2002/0016583 A1 (CRAGG) 07 February 2002 (07.02.2002), see paragraph 140.	1,2,6,7,9,17-19,40,41,44-46,57
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Y,P		8,10,14-16
X	US 5,355,547 A (FITJER) 18 October 1994 (18.10.1994), see entire document.	1,2,4-8,17-19
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Y		14-16

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

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"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"&"	document member of the same patent family

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Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Facsimile No. (703)305-3230

Authorized officer

David O. Reip *Diane Smith Jr*
Telephone No. (703) 305-3383

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

C. (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4,108,162 A (CHIKASHIGE et al.) 22 August 1978 (22.08.1978) see entire document.	1-7,9,13,17-19 -----

Y		8,10

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/US02/28926

Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 1:

606/79,84,85,96,131,159,167,170,172,180
435/125,142

Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

EAST
brush, bristle, cannula, guard, shield